

CLAIMS

- 1.(Twice Amended) A lid for a utility box comprising:
- a member [formed of]molded from plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides and an outer edge,
  - said lower side comprising a lower surface,
  - a plurality of spaced apart recesses having outer edges at said lower surface which are spaced from said outer edge of said member such that said lower surface surrounds said outer edges of said recesses,
  - said recesses being formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the plastic material and hence the quality of the lid,
  - each of said recesses comprises a surface which extends from its said outer edges into said member,
  - the area of said lower surface being greater than the total area surrounded by said outer edges of said recesses.

- 5.(Twice Amended) A lid for a utility box, comprising:
- a member [formed of]molded from plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides and an outer edge,
  - said lower side comprising a lower surface,
  - a plurality of spaced apart recesses having outer edges at said lower surface which are spaced from said outer edge of said member such that said lower surface surrounds said outer edges of said recesses,
  - said recesses being formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the plastic material and hence the quality of the lid,
  - each of said recesses comprises a surface which extends from its said outer edges into said member,

said outer edges of each of said recesses comprise two spaced apart elongated outer edges and two spaced apart shorter outer edges,

said elongated edges of said recesses are generally parallel with each other,

said member has a given dimension along which said elongated edges of said recesses extend,

the lengths of said elongated edges of said recesses are greater than one half of said given dimension of said member[.],

said member of said lid has the strength sufficient to withstand a load of at least 8,000 pounds applied to said upper side when said lower side is supported by means placed around the perimeter of said member.

18.(Amended) A lid for a utility box, comprising:

a member [formed of]molded from plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides,

said lower side comprising a lower surface having an outer edge,

a plurality of spaced apart recesses formed in said lower surface and spaced from said outer edge of said lower surface and from said upper side,

said recesses being formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the plastic material and hence the quality of the lid,

one of said recesses comprising two spaced apart elongated edges and two spaced apart shorter edges,

said lower surface having a given dimension along which said elongated edges extend,

the lengths of said elongated edges of said one recess are greater than one half of said given dimension of said surface[.],

said member of said lid has the strength sufficient to withstand a load of at least 8,000 pounds applied to said upper side

when said lower side is supported by means placed around the perimeter of said member.

23.(Amended) A lid for a utility box, comprising:

a member [formed of]molded from plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides,

said lower side comprising a lower surface having an outer edge,

first and second spaced apart recesses, generally parallel to each other, formed in said lower surface and spaced from said outer edge of said lower surface and from said upper side,

said recesses begin formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the plastic material and hence the quality of the lid,

each of said first and second recesses comprising two spaced apart elongated edges and two spaced apart shorter edges with two generally flat surfaces extending along said two elongated edges respectively and which join each other along a line such that said two surfaces and a plane extending across said recess at said lower surface [defines]define a triangle as seen in cross-sections transverse to said elongated edges with said line located between said upper and lower surfaces,

the dimensions of said lower surface between said first and second spaced apart recesses being greater than the dimensions of said shorter edges of either of said first and second recesses.

25.(Amended) A lid for a utility box, comprising:

a member [formed of]molded from plastic material and having spaced apart upper and lower sides,

said lower side comprising a lower surface having an outer edge,

a plurality of spaced apart recesses formed in said lower surface and spaced from said outer edge of said lower surface and from said upper side,

said recesses being formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the plastic material and hence the quality of the lid,

one of said recesses comprising two spaced apart elongated edges and two spaced apart shorter edges,

a second of said plurality of recesses has dimensions in two directions transverse to each other each of which is greater than the dimensions of said shorter edges of said one recess[.],

said member of said lid has the strength sufficient to withstand a load of at least 8,000 pounds applied to said upper side when said lower side is supported by means placed around the perimeter of said member.

26.(Amended) A lid for a utility box, comprising:

a member [formed of] molded from plastic material having spaced apart upper and lower sides,

said lower side comprising a lower surface having an outer edge,

at least one recess formed in said lower surface and spaced from said outer edge of said lower surface and from said upper side,

said one recess being formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the plastic material and hence the quality of the lid,

said one recess comprising two spaced apart elongated edges and two spaced apart shorter edges with two generally flat surfaces extending along said two elongated edges respectively and which join each other along a line such that said two surfaces and a plane extending across said recess at said lower surface [defines]define a

triangle as seen in cross-sections transverse to said elongated edges with said line located between said upper and lower surfaces,  
said lower side having a given dimension along which said elongated edges of said recess extend,  
the lengths of each of said elongated edges are equal to a substantial portion of the length of said given dimension.

31.(Amended) A lid for a utility box, comprising:

a member [formed of]molded from plastic material having spaced apart upper and lower sides,

said lower side comprising a lower surface having an outer edge,

first and second spaced apart recesses, generally parallel to each other, formed in said lower surface and spaced from said outer edge of said lower surface and from said upper side,

said recesses being formed during the molding process to enhance curing of the material and hence the quality of the lid,

each of said first and second recesses comprising two spaced apart elongated edges and two spaced apart shorter edges with two generally flat surfaces extending along said two elongated edges respectively and which join each other along a line such that said two surfaces and a plane extending across said recess at said lower surface [defines]define a triangle as seen in cross-sections transverse to said elongated edges with said line located between said upper and lower surfaces.